



**Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
Law College Road,
Pune: 411004**

Pune
21-07-2015

FTII STRIKE: Day 40

Today, we the students have entered the 40th day of our strike. On 16th July 2015 we had sent a letter to Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore requesting for another dialogue with the I&B Ministry to arrive at constructive solutions regarding the concerns raised by the FTII students and other stake holders. We haven't even got any acknowledgements of the receipt of this letter. We, the students want to reach a positive conclusion as soon as possible, but the lack of response from the ministry is making it difficult.

With the appointment of Shri Prashant Pathrabe as the interim Director of FTII on the 17th of July 2015, we hope, the channel of communication will be reopened.

In these 40 days of our strike, we have resorted to creative means of protest like making art installations, film screenings, inviting artists from outside to make art works in support of the students, music and theatre performances etc. Even then, there have been continuous provocations from unidentified elements by vandalizing a certain art installations outside the gate on two consecutive days, early morning of 18 July 2015 and late night of 19 July 2015.

In our attempt to reach out to all the citizens of the country, the students of FTII have sent letters seeking support to several Members of Parliament, since they are our democratically chosen representatives. We have reached out to all possible members irrespective of the political party they belong to, including those of the ruling party.

FTII alumnus, film-maker and producer Vidhu Vinod Chopra, went on record addressing the issue of tax-payers' money being spent on the FTII and revenue generation by the institute. Citing the example of the recently released film PK, which was produced by Vinod Chopra Films, he said that out of the Rs.330crores business the film did, Rs.300crores was just the entertainment tax given to the Government. He further added that the taxes paid by all the FTII alumni amounts to much more than what the Government spends on the institute every year. He also raised doubts about how many IIM graduates actually stay back and serve the country's interests.

Today, former film actress and current Congress leader Nagma visited the campus and expressed her solidarity with the striking students. She also raised her concerns about political interferences in academic spaces like FTII and the students being called "anti-nationals" and "anti-Hindus" while we are resorting to peaceful means of protest.

In the evening, trade unionists and social activists including Shri.Bhai vaidya, Smt.Mukta Manohar, Shri.Narayan Joshi, Shri.Niraj Jain, Shri.Kishor Dhokle, Adv.Santosh Mhaske, Shri.Chandrakant Tiwari, Shri.Ketkar Bhalchandra and Shri.Dilip Pawar visited the FTII campus in solidarity with our cause. They assured us of their complete support and cooperation.

Students' Association, FTII
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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/FTII-Wisdom-Tree>